

21 January 1963

Dear Harold:

25X1C8a

These are informal entre-nous comments on your Malaya and Singapore Part I, which would have been forwarded earlier had we not been engaged here in a concentrated examination of NIS content, formats, etc., to see how we can better cope with the perennial and complex problem of timely maintenance. This has made us particularly interested in some aspects of [REDACTED] 1/1/62 and I regret we can't talk, without the limitations inherent in written correspondence.

In this connection we are interested in the division of the Part I into the two Volumes, with emphasis on different relative perishability of content, and also classification. We see some problems here, e.g., that much of the History and Peoples in Volume 2 content is relatively stable and, contra, that considerable of the Medical content for example is susceptible to relatively rapid updating (in part due to the overcoming of previous lag in developing more comprehensive knowledge in this field).

I can appreciate special considerations in your dealing with the country here involved, but we note that military geographic content does not include reference to past military operations in the area, to which we have come to give considerable attention in the NIS in the interest of providing actual experience bench marks. We also think that in cross-country movement coverage we tend to make more reference to non-motorized forces. I personally miss cross-references between text and graphics, for example in photo illustrations of terrain being discussed.

We note that you have not included biographic material, which the NIS has always been importuned to extensively include. At the moment we are considering the possibility of a transfer of this to coverage by another category of intelligence publication more capable of maintaining the up-to-dateness of this inherently fairly perishable material.

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It is clear that all involved with basic intelligence coverage are concerned with developing feasible ways of handling the revision problem and, while [REDACTED] 1/1/62 has been out only a short time, I would be obliged for any further thoughts that you may have developed or may develop as to how your two-volume format works out in practice.

I hope you may find something of interest in the above. I regret that we didn't have more opportunity to talk about such practicalities when you were here for the conference, and hope there will be additional opportunity in the future. In the meantime a junior Manyung graduate wishes a senior one well

Sincerely,

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]
Assistant Director
Basic Intelligence

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Distribution:

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